GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5550
ANSWERED ON:29.08.2001
TREATMENT OF FOREIGN NATIONALS
GUNIPATI RAMAIAH

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign nationals came to India for treatment during the last two years;

(b) the number of such nationals out of them underwent kidney transplantation;

(c) the number of cases reported regarding selling of kidneys in Indian hospitals;

(d) whether the Government are going to take any stringent measures to keep a check on the incidents of selling of kidneys; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a)&(b): There is no separate visa for medical treatment to foreigners. Foreigners enter into India on tourist or entry visa and get medical treatment in various hospitals in India. As such, data regarding number of foreigners came to India for medical treatment is not maintained.

(c): Under section 13(2) of the Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994, the State Governments are empowered to appoint by a notification one or more officers as Appropriate Authorities for the purposes of the Act. Such Appropriate Authorities are empowered to investigate any complaints of breach of provisions of the Act including those pertaining to sale of human organs including kidney. The information relating to the number of cases of selling of kidneys in Indian hospitals which is against the provisions and punishable under the said Act should be available with the State Government(s) concerned in whose jurisdiction such offence takes place. The Director General of Health Services has been appointed as the Appropriate Authority in respect of all Union Territories including the N.C.T. of Delhi. Two cases of people selling their kidneys pertaining to Delhi have come to the notice during last one year.

(d)to(e): The Transplantation of Human Organs Act was enacted on 8th July, 1994 to provide for the regulation of removal, storage and transplantation of human organs for therapeutic purposes and for the prevention of commercial dealings in human organs and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. The said Act has since been adopted by all the States except Bihar and newly created States, namely Uttaranchal, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh.